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- (74) Agents: KOCH, Robert, J. et al.; Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20004-2604

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(54) Title: REGULATED APOPTOSIS USING CHEMICALLY INDUCED DIMERIZATION OF APOPTOSIS FACTORS

#### (57) Abstract

The present invention discloses artificial death switches (ADSs) based on chemically induced dimerization of the cysteine proteases, caspase-1 (ICE) and caspase-3 (YAMA). In both cases, aggregation of the target protein is achieved by a non-toxic, lipid-permeable, dimeric FK506 analog that binds to an attached FK506-binding protein (FKBP). The intracellular crosslinking of caspase-1 or caspase-3 is sufficient to trigger rapid apoptosis in a Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>-independent manner, suggesting that these conditional pro-apoptotic molecules can bypass intracellular checkpoint genes, like Bcl-xL, that limit apoptosis. Since these chimeric molecules are derived from autologous proteins, they should be non-immunogenic and thus ideal for long-lived gene therapy vectors. These properties should also make chemically-induced apoptosis (CIA) useful for developmental studies, for treating hyperproliferative disorders and for developing animal models to a wide variety of diseases.

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The present invention discloses artificial death switches (ADSs) based on chemically induced dimerization of the cysteine proteases, caspase-1 (ICE) and caspase-3 (YAMA). In both cases, aggregation of the target protein is achieved by a non-toxic, lipid-permeable, dimeric FK506 analog that binds to an attached FK506-binding protein (FKBP). The intracellular crosslinking of caspase-1 or caspase-3 is sufficient to trigger rapid apoptosis in a Bcl-x<sub>1</sub>-independent manner, suggesting that these conditional pro-apoptotic molecules can bypass intracellular checkpoint genes, like Bcl-xL, that limit apoptosis. Since these chimeric molecules are derived from autologous proteins, they should be non-immunogenic and thus ideal for long-lived gene therapy vectors. These properties should also make chemically-induced apoptosis (CIA) useful for developmental studies, for treating hyperproliferative disorders and for developing animal models to a wide variety of diseases.

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# INTERNATION SEARCH REPORT

nal Application No PCT/US 99/06799

. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 6 C12N15/62 A61K A. CLASS A61K48/00 A01K67/027 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61K IPC 6 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category 1 - 27WO 97 20463 A (GEN HOSPITAL CORP) X 12 June 1997 (1997-06-12) page 3, line 17 -page 11, line 34 page 39 -page 53; example 2 1-27 MUZIO ET AL: "AN INDUCED PROXIMITY MODEL X FOR CASPASE-8 ACTIVATION" THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY. vol. 273, 30 January 1998 (1998-01-30), pages 2926-2930, XP002116597 the whole document HENKART ET AL: "ICE FAMILY PROTEASES: Α MEDIATORS OF ALL APOPTOTIC CELL DEATH?" IMMUNITY. vol. 4, 1996, pages 195-201, XP002116598 cited in the application the whole document -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docucitation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 12/10/1999 27 September 1999 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Sitch, W

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Interr nal Application No
PCT/US 99/06799

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

lational application No.

PCT/US 99/06799

Box I	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	rnational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  Remark: Although claims 12-16 completely and 17-26 partially (insofar as such relate to in vivo methods) are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3.	Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application. as follows:
1.	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.	No required additional search tees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remar	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

commation on patent family members

Interr nal Application No PCT/US 99/06799

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